



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
17 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

FEB 27 2010

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

E-19J

Norman Stoner, P.E.
Illinois Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
3250 Executive Park Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62703

Re: Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Elgin-O'Hare West Bypass,
Cook and DuPage Counties, Illinois, EIS No. 20100170

Dear Mr. Stoner:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Elgin-O'Hare West Bypass project, prepared by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). We are providing our comments for your consideration pursuant to our authorities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

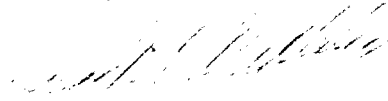
The Tier 1 project study area encompasses 127 square miles in Cook and DuPage Counties. Tier 1 evaluated multi-modal options to improve regional and local travel, travel efficiency, access to O'Hare International Airport from the west, and modal opportunities and connections. The Tier 1 process led to the selection of a preferred transportation concept. In November, 2009, IDOT provided information to EPA supporting its selection of Alternative 203 with Southern Bypass Connection Option D as the preferred alternative. EPA concurred with the Tier 1 preferred alternative by letter on February 10, 2010.

At the time of the Tier 1 DEIS, EPA rated the document as a Lack of Objections. However, we recommended that the Tier 1 FEIS include information on conceptual mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts. We also suggested that the Tier 2 analysis include more specific information on wetland delineation and functional assessment, stormwater treatment, hot spot analysis for particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5}), and clean diesel/anti-idling mitigation.

We note that information on compensatory wetland mitigation is included in the FEIS in the Section 4.3 and Section 4.13.5.2. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project. We look forward to our continued involvement and cooperation with FHWA and IDOT during the Tier 2 where detailed analysis of discreet

project elements will occur. If you or your staff have any questions concerning our comments, please contact me at (312) 886-2910 or westlake.kenneth@epa.gov, or Sherry Kamke of my staff at (312) 353-5794 or kamke.sherry@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Westlake
Chief, NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

cc: Diane O'Keefe, IDOT